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S E C R E T 10

25X1

1. DAVID HOFFMAN HAS ARTICLE IN 26 JANUARY WASHINGTON POST, FILED WITH CU CHI DATELINE, THAT HAS GENERATED INTEREST HERE. ARTICLE SOURCED TO QUOTE US INTELLIGENCE UNQUOTE AND QUOTE KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES UNQUOTE, PRESUMABLY MEANING 25TH INFANTRY AND POSSIBLY MACV J-2 OFFICERS.

2. MAIN THRUST OF PIECE IS THAT IN III CORPS NVA REGULARS ARE FOR THE FIRST TIME BEING INTEGRATED INTO GUERRILLA, AS WELL AS LOCAL FORCE, UNITS (SQUADS) FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPLOITING ANY CEASEFIRE ARRANGEMENT TO COME OUT OF PARIS TALKS. IF TRUE THIS WOULD REPRESENT SIGNIFICANT NEW PATTERN OF COMMUNIST USE ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ NVA TROOPS. ARTICLE ALSO CLAIMS THAT IN II CORPS (THOUGH THIS ALMOST CERTAINLY TYPO ERROR FOR III CORPS) NVA FILLERS ACCOUNT FOR BETWEEN 50 TO 80 PERCENT OF LOCAL FORCE STRENGTH.

3. THERE IS NO INFORMATION AT HEADQUARTERS TO CONFIRM OR NEGATE ARTICLE'S ALLEGATIONS ON THESE AND OTHER RELATED SUBJECTS

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PAGE TWO

TO [TOUCHED ON. REQUEST YOUR COMMENT ON FOLLOWING: (A) EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT CLAIM NVA IS SENDING NVA REGULARS (OR CADRES) TO GUERRILLA UNITS AND POSSIBLE REASONS FOR SAME; (B) IS IT TRUE, AS ARTICLE CLAIMS, THAT COSVN HAS ~~REX XXXXXX~~ RELINQUISHED CONTROL TO REGIMENTAL AND ~~KE~~ BATTALION LEVEL ON DECISION WHETHER TO ATTACK OR NOT ATTACK IN ~~XX~~ ANY GIVEN SITUATION; (C) IS THERE ANY INFORMATION RELATIVE TO ALLEGED RECENT REDESIGNATION OF SEVERAL NVA AND INDEPENDENT REGIMENTS AS VC UNITS AND THE DESIGNATOR UPGRADING OF SEVERAL UNDERSTRENGTH VC COMPANIES INTO CLAIMED "BATTALIONS."

4. ARTICLE ALSO SAYS THERE IS APPARENT HALT IN HOLDING OF COMMUNIST LIBERATION COMMITTEE ELECTIONS. PURPOSE OF THIS REASONED TO BE POSSIBLE DECISION BY HANOI THAT IN WAKE OF CEASEFIRE TROOPS IN WIDELY SCATTERED AREAS WOULD BE BEST TERRITORIAL CONTROL MECHANISM AND PRESENCE OF ALLEGED LARGE VC UNITS WOULD SUPPORT ~~ALSO~~ EXAGGERATED CLAIMS BY OTHER SIDE AS TO AMOUNT OF GROUND THEY HOLD.

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5. REGRET TASKING YOU ON BASIS OF PRESS ITEM FROM WHAT
 APPEAR TO BE LESS THAN HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED SOURCES, BUT INTEREST
 HERE IS HIGH IN ANY DEVIATION FROM NORMAL BEHAVIOR PATTERNS BY NVA
 PARTICULARLY, ALONG LINES INDICATED IN SUBJECT ARTICLE.

END OF MESSAGE

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 William E. Nelson C/FE
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George A. Carver, Jr!

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